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loquialisms, and at times the sentence structure is not well worked out. The second volume, too, would be far more useful if there were a fuller index.

Notwithstanding its obvious defects, Mr. Esarey's second volume completes a work of much value. The author has displayed very great patience in digging out and making available an immense amount of valuable material. Such pioneer work is necessary, and should prove the foundation for a shorter, more analytical, and better-jointed history of Indiana. Certainly such a volume is greatly needed. Meanwhile the two volumes should be placed on the reference shelf of every library, and in their pages the student of Indiana and middle western history will find a most valuable record of the origin and progress of the Hoosier state.

BEVERLEY W. BOND, JR.

*The frontier state, 1818-1848.* By Theodore Calvin Pease, University of Illinois. [Centennial history of Illinois, volume II] (Springfield: Illinois centennial commission, 1919. 475 p. \$2.00)

This volume is one of a series written and published by the Illinois centennial commission to place in the hands of the citizenship of Illinois a reliable account of the transformation of a wilderness land into the present state of Illinois. It illustrates the advantages and disadvantages of coöperative authorship. The disadvantages of cross-sectioning are about equaled by the advantages of more careful investigation. Mr. Pease has rightly relied entirely on primary sources — newspapers, state records and manuscripts. One who has not tried can never realize how difficult it is to wring a connected consequential story out of such materials. The writer who produces alleged history from reports of commissions, public speeches, and magazine articles may even die in the belief that he has been a historian. The public has very little appreciation of the vast gulf between the two kinds of history. It is unfortunate that the same name has to be given to the products of both. There is the same fundamental difference between the work of Mr. Pease and that of the commercial or hack historian as between the artist and the photographer.

During the thirty years covered by the volume the problems were primarily political; and the author has devoted twelve of the twenty-two chapters to the organization of the state and the development of political parties. During the first period political activity centered around the leaders and the whole is correctly named the period of personal politics. Even what is known in American history as Jacksonian democracy is only a national case of personal politics. Similarly the

tremendous following of Harrison was primarily personal. During the thirty years the questions of slavery, both state and national, finance, including the bank struggle, internal improvements, and the public lands were threshed out on the Illinois hustings. These questions are the more difficult because no party stood for them but rather on each there was a new alignment. Individuals changed front in bewildering perplexity. Each issue and each individual were influenced to a greater or less extent by still more local issues — the location of the state capital, the location and management of the banks and above all the location of the internal improvements. How considerably these cross-currents operated is shown by a comparison of the conclusions of Mr. Pease with those of the standard historians of the United States. Those who yearn for another period of so-called independent voting should study the history of the northwestern states during the period of personal politics.

Besides the essentially political issues the next in importance were banks and internal improvements. Here Mr. Pease found a trace of party regularity, the democrats usually opposing both, though neither party was able to make either a test of party regularity. Illinois, like its neighbors, tried to meet a real economic need with its state bank but failed and had nothing to show for its effort but a regretful experience. How far this failure was due to poor management, the situation or party politics the author does not say, perhaps it is impossible to tell. Practically the same general experience resulted from the internal improvements. Here the experience of Illinois was similar to that of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, so similar that a change of proper names and figures would make the story apply to any one of the states.

The stories of the Mormon war and the Black Hawk war are peculiar to Illinois and are well told. The general attitude of the people toward the Mormons and the Indians was the same in all the western states.

Little can be said in adverse criticism. One is tempted to say that too much space is given to politics. One would like to read of the everyday life of the folks, for the big work after all was that of transforming the woods and prairies into farms. The chapters on "Illinois in ferment" and "Social advance" are devoted to this subject and for that reason will probably appeal most to the mass of readers. For the corresponding period in Indiana history the reviewer was able to find little in home, church, or school that would yield material for the historian. The home life was dull, hard, and monotonous; the schools were mostly themes for discussion and neighborhood quarrel. Everything was personal and individual. So in the case of Illinois one might in criticising the author for lack of more attention to these subjects only betray the critic's ignorance.

The style of the volume is not as light and easy as it should be for popular use. Many of the sentences are involved so that one frequently has to go back and reread them before one grasps the meaning. This may be due in part to the large amount of detail contained. The reader at times when expecting a clear-cut conclusion is also disappointed in the caution of the author. Especially is this true where blame is in question as in the bank or internal improvements management.

The state is to be congratulated on the excellence of the work of Mr. Pease. The thanks of the people of the whole northwest are due the author for the long, tedious, dishwashing work necessary in the preparation of such a volume.

LOGAN ESAREY

*The era of the civil war, 1848-1870.* By Arthur Charles Cole, University of Illinois. [Centennial history of Illinois, volume III] (Springfield: Illinois centennial commission, 1919. 499 p. \$2.00)

There has been no more notable undertaking in the field of state history than the *Centennial history of Illinois*. Preceded by elaborate efforts to gather materials from archives both at home and abroad, and engaging the serious and prolonged efforts of a group of young scholars who are conversant with the approved methods of contemporary historical science, this effort at comprehensive state history bears sharp contrast to the amateur or catch-penny volumes which have so often passed as histories. These volumes conform also to modern professional canons in the matter of footnotes, bibliographies, and indexes, and withal are most attractive examples of the arts of the printer and binder.

In the third volume of the series, Mr. Cole presents the results of his study of the years 1848-1870 — years of most rapid change, since they carried the state from the frontier stage to that of a modern commonwealth. Approximately half of the pages are claimed by the story of the Kansas-Nebraska struggle, the civil war, and the early stages of reconstruction. The other moiety is devoted to various phases of *Kulturgeschichte* — railroad building, banking, agricultural progress, immigration and emigration, religion and education, the rise of capitalism and the labor movement. The book is plain, narrative history, with little attempt at interpretation, and with no emphasis upon analysis of institutions. One expects to meet much that is familiar in a review of the Kansas-Nebraska act, the origin of the republican party, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the elections of 1860 and 1864, but Mr. Cole's research in newspaper files and unprinted manuscripts has been so extensive that these chapters have much of the value of monographs on the Illinois aspects of these subjects. The great preponderance of source citations